

Summary of 30 exit interviews with graduating Communication Studies students

Most Commonly Identified Strengths of the Communication Studies Program:

- **Faculty.** Teachers know and care about their students, students feel comfortable seeking help and advice, varying specialties and areas of research, high expectations and support to reach them.
- **Small class sizes.** Creates connection to faculty and among peers, more feedback and accountability.
- **Capstone class.** Students reported great learning benefit from the capstone class.
- **Applicability of course material.** Can use learning in any job or endeavor, easy to connect class to life and find meaning and value in what is being learned.
- **Suzann Winn - Advisor.** Students showed an outpouring of gratitude for Suzann's work in helping them create and complete their graduation plan.

Most Commonly Identified Weaknesses/Areas for Improvement in the Communication Studies Program:

- **Registration and ability to get into classes.** Because of the high demand on Communication Studies classes, students report very high levels of anxiety – particularly in their junior year – about getting into classes so they can graduate in a timely manner. Students feel a lot of frustration about this. Every student who didn't have priority registration cited this as the biggest weakness of the program. Students suggested hiring more teachers (but admitted this might change the close feel of the program), not letting non-majors into many of our 3000 and 4000 level classes, or professors letting more students who are majors in above the cap (but with worry that this would change small classroom feel).
- **More internship opportunities.** Students wanted to know earlier on that they could find internships and count them toward their major.
- **Better framing of the program and its classes when students are accepted.** Students appreciated the capstone experience and expressed a desire for something like that at the beginning of the program.